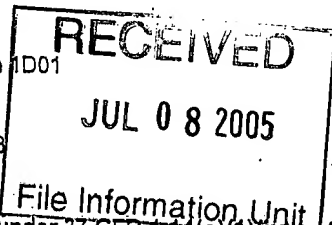


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US006546399B1

(12) **United States Patent**  
**Reed et al.**

(10) Patent No.: **US 6,546,399 B1**  
 (45) Date of Patent: **\*Apr. 8, 2003**

(54) **MULTIMEDIA SEARCH SYSTEM**

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(73) Assignee: Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., Chicago, IL (US)

(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

(21) Appl. No.: 08/202,985

(22) Filed: Feb. 28, 1994

(Under 37 CFR 1.47)

**Related U.S. Application Data**

(63) Continuation of application No. 08/113,955, filed on Aug. 13, 1993, now abandoned, which is a continuation of application No. 07/426,917, filed on Oct. 26, 1989, now Pat. No. 5,241,671.

(51) Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup> ..... G06F 17/30

(52) U.S. Cl. .... 707/104.1

(58) Field of Search ..... 707/104.1

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A database search system that retrieves multimedia information in a flexible, user friendly system. The search system uses a multimedia database consisting of text, picture, audio and animated data. That database is searched through multiple graphical and textual entry paths. Those entry paths include an idea search, a title finder search, a topic tree search, a picture explorer search, a history timeline search, a world atlas search, a researcher's assistant search, and a feature articles search.

**75 Claims, 20 Drawing Sheets**

